

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
ROCK HILL DIVISION

Norma Jean Klein,)	Civil Action No.: 0:16-cv-01999-RBH
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER
)	
Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	

On December 6, 2017, Plaintiff filed a motion for attorney's fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act,¹ asserting the position taken by Defendant in this action was not substantially justified. *See* ECF No. 33. On December 20, 2017, the parties filed a joint stipulation agreeing to an award of \$4,600.00 in attorney's fees and \$23.00 in expenses. *See* ECF No. 34. The joint stipulation provides that the attorney's fees award should be paid to the claimant (not her attorney) and is subject to the Treasury Offset Program² if the claimant owes an outstanding debt to the federal government.

After careful consideration, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to pay Plaintiff attorney's fees in the amount of \$4,600.00, subject to the Treasury Offset Program provision in the joint stipulation, and expenses in the amount of \$23.00. Pursuant to *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), the attorney's fees will be paid directly to the claimant and mailed to her attorney, with a copy sent to the claimant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

December 21, 2017
Florence, South Carolina

s/ R. Bryan Harwell
R. Bryan Harwell
United States District Judge

¹ 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

² 31 U.S.C. § 3716.